

## PRESS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Middle District of Florida

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## For Immediate Release

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## FORMER ORLANDO USED CAR DEALER SENTENCED FOR FILING FALSE INCOME TAX RETURN

Ocala, Florida - U.S. District Judge William Terrell Hodges, today sentenced EDWARD BENEVIDES, a 38 year old resident of Orlando, to ten months' imprisonment for filing a false tax return. BENEVIDES pled guilty on June 29, 2006.

According documents, BENEVIDES understated his income on his 1999 and 2000 individual income tax returns (Form 1040) by failing to provide his return preparer with a complete set of bank records for his business bank accounts and by failing to disclose a personal money market account which contained skimmed business receipts. BENEVIDES underreported his gross receipts by \$91,199 in 1999 and \$330,785 in 2000. BENEVIDES also failed to provide his return preparer with a Form W-2 for his wife's employment for the year 2000.

BENEVIDES was self-employed as a used car dealer in 1999 and 2000 at Tyler James Auto Brokers. He purchased vehicles at the auto auctions, repaired them, and then resold them. In many instances, BENEVIDES had the purchaser make the check payable

to Tyler James Auto Broker. In other instances, however, he had the purchaser make the check payable to Edward Benevides or Eddie Benevides in order to hide this income. It was these checks which were deposited into the money market account and which were not reported on his tax returns. The total tax loss relating to the 1999 and 2000 income tax returns is \$74,057.45.

The case was investigated by Special Agents of the Internal Revenue Service,
Criminal Investigation, and was being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney
I. Randall Gold.